

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 307

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 2462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN STANDARD UNION

REF: TEGUCIGALPA A-55

1. THE STRUGGLE BY DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS WITHIN SUTRASFCO (UNION OF STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY WORKERS) TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE UNION (SEE REF) HAS COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. FOLLOWING AN APRIL 16 MEETING OF DEMOCRATICALLY ORIENTED UNIONISTS, INCLUDING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE UNION'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AN ORGANIZATION TITLED DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF STANDARD FRUIT WORKERS AFFILIATED TO SUTRASFCO (FDTS) WAS FORMED. IN A FULL PAGE AD IN TIEMPO OF MAY 26, THE GROUP STATED THAT THE FRONT WAS FORMED BECAUSE THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP WAS CARRYING THE UNION INTO THE HEART OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THE DECLARATION ALSO ATTACKED THE CURRENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR MISHANDLING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH STANDARD FRUIT WHEN THE LATTER DISMISSED OVER 2,000 WORKERS IN THE ILSETAS AREA.

2. THE FDTS HAS MADE AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS IN FORM LETTERS DATED MAY 21 SENT TO INDIVIDUALS VIEWED AS SYMPATHETIC. THE LETTERS BLAME COMMUNISTS IN THE UNION FOR THE LOSS OF THE ISLETAS AREA JOBS.

3. LABOFF HAS LEARNED THAT FESITRANH PRESIDENT CELEO
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GONZALEZ IS GIVING ASSISTANCE TO THE FDTS. THE TYPE OR QUANTITY OF AID IS UNKNOWN ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT FESITRANH LEADERSHIP WOULD HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GROUP.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH STANDARD FRUIT MANAGER MICHAEL
ROTOLO JUNE 5, LABOFF LEARNED THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY
SITRATERCO SOURCES ABOUT SUTRASFCO PRESIDENT NAPOLEON ACEVEDO
WAS INCORRECT. THE EMBASSY HAD REPORTED THAT AS AN EMPLOYEE
IN STANDARD'S ISLETAS AREA, ACEVEDO WOULD BE DISMISSED BY
THE COMPANY WITH THE OTHER ILSETAS EMPLOYEES AND THEREBY
BE INELIGIBLE FOR UNION OFFICE. ACCORDING TO ROTOLO,
ACEVEDO WAS NOT DISMISSED AND REMAINS LEGALLY A
COMPANY EMPLOYEE. THEREFORE, HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR REELECTION
AS PRESIDENT BY THE UNION CONGRESS BEGINNING JUNE 15.

5. COMMENT: IT IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT CHANCE THE
FDTS HAS IN CAPTURING CONTROL OF THE UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.
THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN THE UNION RANK AND
FILE AND IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL TRY TO RIG THE CONGRESS
BY CONTROLLING DELEGATE SELECTION.
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